

REMARKS

Claims 3, 9, 11, 30 and 35 remain in this application, with Claims 23-29, 31-34 and 36-46 canceled and Claims 30 and 35 amended. The Applicant respectfully requests review and reconsideration of the application as amended above.

At the outset, the Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of Claims 3, 9 and 11, and the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 30 and 35. Per the Examiner's suggestion, Claims 30 and 35 are redrafted in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the interest of expediting prosecution and allowance of the application, the Applicant has cancelled Claims 23-29, 31-34 and 36-46 without prejudice to the re-filing of these cancelled claims in a continuation application. All claims present in the application are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected Claims 23-29, 33, 34, and 36-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Molbak et al. in view of Ziarno. The Examiner also rejected Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Molbak et al. in view of Ziarno, and further in view of Inoue. The Examiner also rejected Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Molbak et al. ('546) in view of Ziarno, and further in view of Molbak et al. ('299). In view of the cancellation of these claims, these grounds of rejection are considered moot.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 3, 9, 11, 30 and 35 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited.

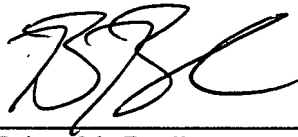
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**



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While the Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 27, 2001

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